

# London Free Press.

VOL. II.

LOUDON, TENNESSEE, APRIL 11, 1854.

NO. 20.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY  
JNO. W. & SAM'L E. O'BRIEN.  
Office on Cedar Street, East of the Public Square.  
TERMS:—Two Dollars in advance; Two Dollars and Fifty Cents in six months; Three Dollars at the expiration of the year.  
ADVERTISEMENTS:—Inserted at \$1 per square for the first, and 50 cents for each subsequent insertion.  
YEARLY RATES.  
Professional Cards, (five lines), ..... \$75  
Quarries of columns, (more than five lines), ..... 10  
Half column, ..... 25  
One column, ..... 50  
Announcing candidates, (advance), ..... 75  
Address the Publishers, Post-Paid.

## LOUDON:

TUESDAY, APRIL 11.

**Runaway from Messrs. Cutting and Breckinridge.**—Washington, March 29.—It is reported in Washington that a duel was fought on Wednesday morning, out of the District of Columbia by Mr. CUTTING of New York, and Mr. BRECKINRIDGE of Kentucky, in which the latter was wounded in the neck.  
The District Attorney and U. S. Marshal left the Court room on Wednesday morning to arrest the proceedings.

**Baltimore, March 29.**—Immense excitement prevailed in Washington, on Wednesday, in consequence of rumors being current that a duel had taken place between Messrs. CUTTING and BRECKINRIDGE. All sorts of rumors were in circulation, but the most reliable is that Mr. CUTTING challenged Mr. BRECKINRIDGE, and that the parties met at Bladensburg, at six o'clock on Wednesday morning, exchanged shots, without injury to either, and that another meeting is anticipated. Other accounts state that Mr. BRECKINRIDGE was shot in the neck.  
In the House of Representatives on Wednesday there was also great excitement, and the New-York Herald says that the matter shall be fought out by Mr. CUTTING or some else.  
Neither of the belligerents or their particular friends could be found.

**Arrival of the Black Warrior at New York.**—Baltimore, March 29.—The new colored steam ship *Black Warrior*, Capt. BURGESS, arrived at New York on Wednesday evening from Havana, which port she left on the 24th inst. She brought no news of the least importance.

**Congressional Session.**—Washington, March 29.—It is stated that up to Wednesday no duel had taken place between Messrs. BRECKINRIDGE and CUTTING, and that both parties were confined to the House of Representatives. The Senate passed the deficiency bill on Wednesday, but did not go into Executive session.  
The House of Representatives resumed the consideration of the six Steam Frigates Bill.

**The Great Slave Race.**—KENTUCKY VICTORIES.—New-Orleans, April 1.—The "Great Slave Race" was run on the Metairie Course, New-Orleans, on Saturday afternoon at three o'clock.

The race was for all ages, four mile heats, \$5000 subscriptions, p. p., each horse starting to receive \$1000 out of the stakes, provided he were not distanced, and the winner to receive the remainder.

The following horses were entered: Lexington for Kentucky, Leconte for Mississippi, Highlander for Alabama, and Arrow for Louisiana.  
Lexington was the winner in two straight heats. Arrow was distanced in the first heat. In the second heat Leconte came in second and Highlander third.

A violent storm of wind and rain which occurred on Friday, rendered the course very heavy.

An immense assemblage of wealthy, chivalry, wealth, and distinguished characters from all sections of the Union, were present on the occasion. It is supposed that nearly a million of dollars had been wagered on the different points, and grand result of the race, consequently the excitement was intense, and the scene, on the whole, has never been equalled by any sporting event of the age.

**The Great Slave Race.**  
New-Orleans, April 3.—The first heat of "The Great Slave Race," for miles, was run in 8 minutes and 4 seconds, but the second heat was distanced in the second heat. Great disappointment was manifested at the results, the betting on Highlander had run very high. —[Charleston Courier.]

**NEW ORLEANS MARKET.**—March 31.  
BACON.—The Bacon market has presented remarkably steady appearance for some weeks back, and further sales of 450 cases have been made at 7 1/2 for ribbed. Sides, 7 1/2 for clear do., and 5 1/2 for good Shoulders. We still quote for plain and bagged Hams 8 1/2 (at 9), and for good to choice sugar-cured 10 1/2 to 11 1/2. Arrived during the past three days 1015 cases 500 boxes.

**Anti-Slavery Meeting.**—Cincinnati, March 23.—The Inquirer of this morning contains a call for an Anti-Slavery meeting in this city, signed by over a thousand prominent Democrats, including Hon. J. J. Farran, formerly editor of the Inquirer.

About a century ago, the marriages in London were under six thousand a year; they are now four times as many.

**Fire.**—On Sunday morning last, just as the Church bells commenced ringing, the cry of fire was heard in our streets, when Temperance Hall was found to be in a blaze. The roof had caught in a dozen places from sparks from one of the chimneys. The shingles being dry, and a strong wind prevailing, the wonder is, the building was not consumed. —[Virginia.]

**Dough faces.**—Stanly, of North Carolina, has no love for dough faces, as the following shows: "I speak not here of dough faces—the men who for party purpose, agitate the country, that they may win the spoils of office. I had rather meet abolitionists here than such men, if they can be called so."  
"No, I would say, with a slight alteration of one of Canning's verses:  
"Give me the avowed, erect and manly foe;  
Open, I can meet, perhaps may turn his blow;  
But all plagues, great heaven thy wrath can send,  
Save, oh save me from a dough-faced friend."

**The Indianapolis and Bellefontaine Railroad track** was widened to the 4 feet 10 gauge from Mansie to this place, fifty four miles, in seven days! Rapid work. —[Indianapolis Jour.]

From the Knoxville Whig.  
A BASE FALSEHOOD.

Mr. Brownlow.

My attention was this morning called to the subjoined paragraph of the *Washington Star* (D. C.) of the 15th inst. As a personal friend to the distinguished gentleman whose name is so flippantly handled by this mendacious writer, in a trifling penny paper, I take this method of branding the statement made by the "Star" in the first sentence of its paragraph, as a base and wanton falsehood.

Gen. Wm. T. HASKELL had but one brother—Charles Haskell—who perished in the bloody massacre of the *Galipot*, bravely fighting with Davy Crockett, Bowie, and Fannin, for the independence of Texas. His assassination was afterwards avenged by his gallant and true-hearted brother in the late war with Mexico.

It seems that no name, however pure and untarnished, is free from the vile assault of the seditious press in the venal and dissolute atmosphere of Washington City. The editor of the *Star* who thus works the name of an honorable gentleman into a filthy paragraph to give it point, is as sound as an infamously as the one he would expose.

MORRIS BREWER.

of West Tennessee.

The following is the paragraph alluded to in the above:

THE BASIS OF SIVA.—It appears that the name of the above enterprising individual is Haskell, and he is a brother of Mr. Haskell, who was formerly an M. C. from Tennessee.—The following anecdote is related of him as he quitted the city, it gives us at least an insight into the character of them. When pursued to the cars by a constable, he was asked why he did not stay longer, as there were a good many gullible people yet remaining to be acted upon. In reply, he said "the world is governed by humbug."

We have likewise received a letter from a hotel keeper in Baltimore, who had boarded some of the Paki's people, cautioning hotel keepers of this city, how far they trust the company.

The unfortunate difficulty existing between Messrs. CUTTING, of New-York, and BRECKINRIDGE, of Kentucky, growing out of words uttered in debate in the House of Representatives, has we are pleased to observe, been amicably settled. The parties, through the instrumentality of friends, came to a proper understanding on Friday morning, and the basis of the adjustment was announced in the House of Representatives on that day by Mr. PERRY, a friend of Mr. CUTTING, who stated that the difference had been honorably adjusted, on most satisfactory terms. Mr. PERRY, also, on behalf of the principals, apologized to the House for the disorderly proceedings that had taken place.

Mr. BRECKINRIDGE was in his seat. Mr. CUTTING was absent on account of sickness in his family. —[Courier.]

**The Foundation of New Orleans.**—A correspondent of the *Mobile Tribune*, writing from New Orleans, thus speaks of the developments made by the boring of an Artesian well in Canal street, which seems to prove, after all, that New Orleans has a bottom, although it is some ways down.

"The boring of the Artesian well in Canal street, (which was denounced by many a decided bore) has developed some new facts as to the foundation upon which New Orleans rests.—Mr. N. B. Reed kindly furnished me with the following particulars. The first 20 feet, alluvial soil from three to 42 feet, soft blue clay mixed with very fine sand; then follow sand and shells to the depth of 80 feet, with strata of clay. To this depth were found pieces of timber, resembling express boughs. From 80 to the depth of 112 feet, very fine sand, with occasional layers of tough clay. At this point the auger struck hard blue limestone or soft marl, such as is found in the cenozoic concretion. Mr. Reed has no doubt that below this he will obtain an abundant supply of excellent water. The air pump for sucking pipe through sand, constructed for the Mobile Artesian well, lies within the enclosure, and I am authorized to say that he has succeeded beyond his most sanguine expectations, and that next winter he hopes to see the crystal element from the centre of the Public Square."

The idea, therefore, of sinking is moonshine—the worst that can befall New Orleans is the Alaric invasion of the Old Father of Waters, making her for a brief season a sea Venice. This occurs, however, at irregular intervals—perhaps for the other day a fellow paddled up Paydraz street with five barrels of flour in a perogee Congress, after that, ought to declare it a navigable stream.

**Mason's and Dixon's Line.**—What is meant by Mason's and Dixon's line? asked a bright blue-eyed girl of twelve years of age, when sitting under father's table, a few days ago. The answer was "It is a phrase usually employed to describe the boundary between the free and Slave States." But why do they describe it in that way? was her inquiry. The answer may be worth giving to some of our young readers.

In the seventeenth century, James II. of England, then the Duke of York, gave certain lands both to Lord Baltimore and to William Penn and a difficulty soon sprang up as to the proper owner of these lands on the Delaware. Again and again was the affair carried into Court, till in the year 1760, when George III. came to the crown, the Lord Chancellor of England made a decision; but new difficulties sprang up in the drawing of the boundary lines. The commissioners finally employed Messrs. Mason & Dixon who had just returned from the Cape of Good Hope, where they had been to establish the line between Delaware and Maryland, which has ever since been called "Mason's and Dixon's line." —[Watchman & Reflector.]

A young Miss accepted the offer of a young man to gallant her home, and afterwards, finding that Jones might be cracked at her expense should the fact become known, dismissed him about half way home, enjoining secrecy. "Don't be afraid," said he, "of my saying anything about it, for I feel as much ashamed of it as you do."

**A Voucher.**—A Man once went to purchase a horse of a Quaker.

"Will he draw well?" asked the buyer.  
"He will be pleased to see him draw."  
The bargain was concluded, and the farmer tried the horse, but he would not stir a step. He returned and said:

"That horse will not draw an inch."  
"I did not tell thee he would draw, friend. I only remarked that it would please thee to see him draw; and so it would me, but he never gratified me in that respect."

From the N. Y. Tribune.  
THE RUSSIAN RETREAT.

The Russians have retreated from Kalaft, and have, it is stated entirely remodeled their plan of operations. This is the glorious end of the efforts and risk of a three months' campaign, during which the last resources of Wallachia have been completely exhausted. This is the fruit of that inconceivable march into Lesser Wallachia, which appeared to have been undertaken in utter contempt of the simplest rules of strategy. In order to take Kalaft, a simple bridge held by the Turks on the left bank of the Danube, the mass of the Russian army was concentrated on its extreme right, in a position where the weakened centre and left appeared completely abandoned to any attack that the enemy might chance to undertake, and where a degree of indifference was shown to the lines of communication and retreat which is without parallel in the history of warfare. How it happened that Omar Pasha had not profited by this blunder, we have already had occasion to show. How it is that, after all, the Russians have to retreat disgracefully without having effected their purpose, we shall now demonstrate. We say they have to retreat disgracefully, because an advance prepared by blustering, crowned by taking up a merely threatening position, and ending in a retreat and modest retreat, without even an attempt at serious fighting—because a movement composed of an unintermitted series of mistakes and errors, resulting in nothing but the General's conviction that he has made a complete fool of himself—is in the highest degree disgraceful. Now to the state of the case.

The Russians had, by the end of 1853, the following troops in Wallachia, Moldavia and Bessarabia:  
1. 4th army-corps, (Damenberg,) 3 divisions infantry, 1 division cavalry, 4 brigades artillery; total, after deducting losses, 45,000 men.  
2. Of the 5th corps, (Luders,) 1 division of infantry, 1 division cavalry, 4 brigades artillery, say 15,000 men.  
3. 3d corps, (Osten Sacken,) 3 divisions infantry, 1 division cavalry, 4 brigades artillery, say 25,000 men.

Total about 115,000 men, besides non-combatants and one division of Lader's corps in the neighborhood of Odessa, which, being wanted for garrison duty, cannot be taken into the account.  
The troops under Damenberg and Luders were the only forces in the Principalities up to the beginning of December. The approach of the Russian army was to be by the signal for the concentration and the attack on Kalaft. His place on the Bag and the Pruth was to be filled by the Sixth Corps, (Tshodneff) on the road from Moscow. After the junction of this latter corps the Danubian army would have consisted of about 170,000 men, but might have turned out to be stronger if the new levies of recruits from the theatre of war. However, 115,000 to 120,000 men appeared to be the Russian Commander's estimate of the force to defend the whole line of the Danube from Brailov to Nicopolis, and to spare a sufficient number from the extreme right to be concentrated for an attack on Kalaft. When this movement was commenced, toward the end of Dec., Kalaft could hardly shelter more than 10,000 to 12,000 defenders, with 8,000 more at Widdin, whose support might be considered dubious, as they would have to cross a violent river in the heart of winter. The slowness of the Russian movements, however, the indecision of Prince Gorchakoff, and above all, the activity and boldness of Ismael Pasha, the commander at Kalaft, permitted the Turks to concentrate some forty thousand men on the menaced point, and to change Kalaft from a simple bridge-head, stormable by a force of a dozen or so of defenders, into a fortification which could shelter at least 30,000 men, and withstand any but a regular siege attack. It has been justly said that the highest triumph in the construction of a field fortification is the necessity for the enemy to open his trenches against it; if the Russians did not actually open their trenches, it was merely because, even with that extreme slowness, they saw no way of taking Kalaft in the time they could set apart for the operation. Kalaft will henceforth rank with Frederic II's camp at Dunschwitz, with the lines of Torres Vedras, and with the Archduke Charles's entrenchments behind Verona, as one of those efforts of field fortification to be named as classical applications of the art in warlike history.

Now let us look at the Russian means of attack. That they meet in good earnest to take Kalaft is shown by their parks of field artillery having been brought forward as far as Karjova. Their main body was to go by the way, allowed these guns to go and return freely, one of the many military inconceivabilities of the war to be explained only by diplomatic influence. The only thing necessary, then, for the Russians was a sufficient mass of troops to drive in the Turks. To protect trenches and batteries, and to storm the breaches as soon as they could be opened. Here again Ismael Pasha acted like an enterprising and clever commander. His daily orders to take the city in January, his vigorous attack ending in the defeat of a superior Russian force, and the continued attacks of a similar nature which executed, while the Russian concentration was still going on, until he was fairly blockaded on his small Danubian peninsula by a superior force—in short, his system of defending himself by concentrating offensive blows against simple points of the Russian line, and thereby destroying his enemy as far as he could in detail, was exactly what a commander under his circumstances should have done, and forms a cheering contrast with Omar Pasha's previous defence at Oltenitz, or his lazy passivity all this while on the lower Danube. For the petty attacks carried on by him here and there, which appear never to have been broken off at the proper moment, but continued for days and days on the same point with blind obstinacy, even when no result could be expected from them—these petty attacks do not count when a movement across the Danube with forty to sixty thousand men was what was wanted.

After all, the Russians completed, by the latter end of January, their concentration around Kalaft. They were evidently superior in the open field, and must therefore have had there some 30,000 or 40,000 men. Now, deduct these from 165,000 or thereabout, say 20,000 or 30,000 men more for the defence of the line from Brailov to the sea, and there remained for the whole of Greater Wallachia, inclusive of garrisons, from 50,000 to 65,000 men—an army far from sufficient to defend such a long line of attack and a line of communication running parallel with the line of attack at a short distance behind it. A vigorous assault on any point, even with a force inferior to the whole of these 65,000 men, could not but have ended in the utter defeat in detail of all these dispersed Russian corps, and in the capture of all the Russian magazines. Omar Pasha will, some time or other, have to explain his motives for neglecting such an opportunity.

With all their efforts, then, the Russians could merely concentrate before Kalaft a force

barely sufficient to drive in the Turkish outposts, but not to attack the stronghold itself. They took nearly five weeks to effect even this momentary and illusory success. Gen. Schilder, of the Engineers, was sent with positive orders to take Kalaft. He came, he saw, and he revolved to do nothing, until the arrival of Tshodneff should allow fresh troops to come up from the centre and left. Five weeks the Russians stood in this dangerous position, their rear and flanks exposed as if provoking that attack which they could not have resisted a moment. And five weeks Omar Pasha stood menacing their flank and rear in a position where he could see their weakness without spectacles or telescopes, and he did nothing. Verily this system of modern warfare under the patronage of the Allied Powers is above comprehension.

All at once the news reaches us that the Russians are in full retreat from Kalaft. The English journals hereupon exclaim that it is the allies, the Austrians, having concentrated an army in Transylvania, in the rear of the Russian line, which is again the effect of the glorious policy of Lord Aberdeen. But, really an authentic Austrian manifesto shows that no Austrian army exists and that the Austrians have not said and as yet do not appear to know themselves for what purpose they have sent that army where it is. And consequently our British contemporaries are in great uncertainty to the cause of the Russian retreat. But what is the cause of it? Why simply this; French and British troops are to go to Constantinople. Nothing more easy or more plain than to send them thence to Odessa or Bessarabia and cut off the communications of the Russians.

However harmless the real intentions of the Coalition may be pressure from without may force them to act seriously. Gorchakoff evidently does not trust in the merely diplomatic mission of the Western armies. If he were quite sure of England, he could not be so of France. If he were sure of all the Cabinets he would not be so of the Generals. He might risk flank marches in the presence of the Turks, but he supposes the matter must become serious as soon as French and British troops arrive and threaten to fall on his flanks. Consequently, Tshodneff is stopped in his march to form a camp of 20,000 or 40,000 men above Odessa. Consequently he cannot furnish any troops for the Pruth or Sereth. Consequently no troops can come to re-enforce Gorchakoff before Kalaft. Consequently the attack upon that place becomes an impossibility. Consequently Prince Gorchakoff has to retreat in as good order as he came. And thus ends the great tragic comedy of the Russian march against Kalaft.

**HON. J. C. GAULT.**—This gentleman has just concluded the labors of holding the courts of this judicial circuit for Judge Alexander, and we feel warranted in saying, has acquitted himself in a manner highly creditable to himself and satisfactory to the bar and the people.—For a judge of his experience, we have never heard any one more highly spoken of, or seen any one win more rapidly the good opinions of a people to whom he was almost an entire stranger. His uprightness and dispatch in the discharge of the business before him as well as the clearness and force of his expositions of the law, eminently qualify him for the position he fills—and, without intending to disparage the claims or merits of others, we feel justified in saying, that should he be re-elected, the third circuit may well congratulate themselves on having given an ornament to the Bench of Tennessee. —[Register.]

The Grapeshot, the clipper which left New York with arms and ammunition, nominally for Constantinople, the *Courier des Etats Unis* suspects to be destined for Cuba.

The Grapeshot cleared for the Antilles, but the editor does not credit the report that she is going either to Constantinople or Smyrna, as reported. This is the vessel, it will be remembered, which has on board the *Gao. Law* muskets.

The *Mobile Register* says:  
From intimations that have been given, we are led to believe that the vultures of Pezuela expected to find a quantity of arms ammunition, a magazine of all filibusterism, in the hold of the *Black Warrior*. The accounts for their number upon the cotton bales.  
This apprehension resulted from a very simple circumstance. When the New Orleans mail boat came over on the day of the departure of the *Warrior* she brought a quantity of arms, muskets, swords, and pistols. These were sent embarked by a Spanish spy at New Orleans. The mail boat stopped at the *Warrior* in the Bay, and put some of her passengers, with the baggage aboard. She then came on to this city, and landed a portion of the arms on one of our wharves. In a short while they had "mysteriously" disappeared, but not before they had been seen by another Spanish spy in this city.

The *Warrior* sailed, but two letters went with her, conveying the "dreadful intelligence" to the Captain General. Scarcely had she departed, before the foretold arms—the muskets, pistols and swords—were shipped on one of our upriver boats, and passed on to the United States Arsenal at Mount Vernon, for which they had all along been intended.

This, if not apocryphal, is perhaps the "secret history" of the late outrage at Havana. —[Nashville Union.]

The remains of the late John Howard Payne, (the author of "Home, Sweet Home," &c.) are to be brought to this country and placed in the congressional burial-ground, and a suitable monument erected to his memory at the expense of the government.

Of the slaveholding states, Georgia is the only one that has declared approval of the principle of the (Nebraska) bill, and her approval was declared before the bill was put in its present shape, so obnoxious to a large portion of the south. The Legislatures of Maryland, Virginia, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, and Kentucky have been in session since the bill was introduced, but have refrained from any declaration in favor of it, and we presume that no southern Legislature would hesitate to condemn and repudiate the squatter sovereignty principle involved in it. —[Louisville Journal.]

The neatest style of fashionable pantaloons in New York is described as "light grey ground, with the castle of Heidelberg in dark blue, on one leg, and Mount Vesuvius vomiting forth fire on the other."

## MISCHIEF MAKERS.

Oh! could there in this world be found  
Some little spot of happy ground,  
Without the village tattling?  
How doubly blest that spot would be  
Where all might dwell in liberty,  
Free from the bitter misery  
Of gossip's endless prattling!

If such a spot were really known,  
Dame Peace might call it as her own,  
And in it might sit her throne,  
Forever and forever.  
There like a queen might reign and live,  
While every one would soon forgive  
The little slights they might receive,  
And be offended never.

'Tis mischief makers that remove  
From our hearts the warmth of love,  
And lead us all to disapprove  
What gives another pleasure.  
They seem to take one's part—but when  
They've heard our cares, unkindly then  
They soon retail them over again.  
Mixed up with poisonous measures,  
And then they've such a cunning way  
Of telling ill-meant tales they say,  
"Don't mention it, I pray,  
I would tell another."

Straight to your neighbor then they go,  
Narrating every thing they know;  
And break the peace of high and low,  
Wife, husband, friend and brother.  
Oh! that the mischief-making crew,  
Were all reduced to one or two,  
And they were painted red or blue,  
That every one might know them;  
Then would our village's forget  
To rage and quarrel, fume and fret,  
And fall into an angry pet,  
With things so much below them.

For 'tis a sad, degrading part,  
To make another's bosom smart,  
And plant a dagger in the heart.  
We ought to love and cherish!  
Then let us evermore be found  
In quietness with all around,  
While friendship, joy, and peace abound,  
And angry feelings perish.

**Biographical Sketch of President William Walker.**—We find in the *New-Orleans Picayune* the following brief, but interesting biographical sketch of William Walker, commander of the revolutionary expedition to Lower California:  
"William Walker is a native of Tennessee, born at Nashville, we believe, where his father now lives, secretary of an insurance company there. His father, we think, is a Scotchman by birth, although long a resident in the United States. The Scotch features are strongly marked in his son, who is of light complexion, high cheek bones, light blue eyes, face much freckled, but with an air of unmistakable energy with which his whole character corresponds. He was originally intended for the medical profession, and studied in Paris.

After spending several years in Europe, in which he improved and disciplined an intellect naturally strong, he came to the city of New Orleans, with the intention of practicing. But his impatient disposition and his passion for public life led him to change that purpose, and he forthwith applied himself to the study of the law, and prepared himself diligently for the bar.

The bar did not find occupation enough for him; and, being a vigorous thinker and a ready writer, and full of information on all topics of current interest, he took interest in newspapers and politics; and in the winter of 1848-'49, became directly connected with the press of this city, as one of the proprietors and editors of the *Crescent*. The enterprise did not prove profitable. The paper was sold out to other parties in the fall of that year, and Mr. Walker soon after followed the tide to San Francisco. He resumed his profession there, at the same time continuing his pursuits as a journalist. In one of the disputes which grew out of newspaper articles, he became involved in a duel with one of his contemporaries, in which he was wounded. He acquired further prominence by a public controversy with one of the State judges, by whom he was committed for contempt, and gained much reputation for resolution and ability in the manner with which he conducted the effort made to obtain the impeachment and removal of the judge from office. Mr. Walker argued the case before the Legislature, with the power of a logic and learning which won him much esteem.

The attempt failed. Mr. Walker then moved into the interior, practicing law at Marysville, we believe; since, we have heard of him only incidentally, until this expedition brings him out as proclaimed President of an extensive Republic on the Californian peninsula. Mr. Walker is a very young man yet to have passed through all these vicissitudes. He is not over twenty-eight years of age. He is of small size and light frame, but erect, vigorous, used to athletic exercises, very active in habits, of personal bravery approaching to rashness, and an inflexibility of will in the prosecution of his purposes which nothing external can shake. He is of the best stuff out of which revolutionizing bodies are made. We desire to say nothing of the merits of the present undertaking. It looks like a very wild adventure, touched up strongly with mock heroism.

But Mr. Walker is not to be set down as a common low-bred adventurer. He has the bearing, education and accomplishments of a gentleman. The reserve of his manners prevents him making many intimacies here, but those who knew him well gave him their unbounded esteem."

It is stated that Mr. George Law has sold out his entire interest in the United States Mail Steam Ship Company, to Moses Taylor, Charles R. Hecksher, and Marshall O. Robert, who will add at least two new and fast steam ships to the New-York and Aspinwall line, so as to have a spare ship at each port, in case of accident, and with a view to improve the attractions of the Panama route. Mr. Law was the pioneer with the Messrs. Aspinwall in the mail service between the Atlantic and Pacific, and his retirement, after six years service, is an event in the History of our steam marine. —[Courier.]

A clear case of love.—Mr. Singabee, you said the defendant was in love—how do you know that?

"He reads a novel upside down, and writes poetry in his day-book when it should be cheese."

"Any other reason?"

"Yes, sir; he shaves without any lather, and very frequently mistake the sleeves of his coat for the legs of pantaloons, an error that he doesn't discover till he tries to fasten the tails to his suspenders."

A clear case—call the next witness!

The Richmond Whig details a robbery committed in a hotel of that city by means of chloroform, infused through the keyhole of the room.

## THE PRESIDENT AND THE NEBRASKA BILL.

KA BILL.  
Since the publication of EX-SENATOR CLEMENS' letter, reporting a conversation with the President, in which he declared his "decided opinion that Douglas' bill was a proposition in favor of freedom," and added that if it should pass, although we might absorb the whole of Mexico, not another slave state would ever come into the Union." Mr. C. has been induced to write a second letter, addressed to the President qualifying unimportant portions of his first letter, but leaving the expressions most objectionable to the South precisely as he reported them before. Here is the letter:

WASHINGTON, March 24, 1854.  
Dear Sir.—You have called my attention to a late letter of mine to N. Davis, Jr., Esq., and particularly to the following sentence:—"He expressed great surprise at the opposition it met with from the North, and equal surprise that the South should be willing to take it." At the time the conversation to which that sentence alludes took place, I was walking backwards and forwards across the room, and should not have noticed it if you had not remarked that you had no concealments upon the subject, and that you were glad I was present to hear it. In my letter to Mr. Davis I did not pretend to give your language, except where quotation marks are used; and from subsequent conversation with you, I think it very probable that I misunderstood the purport of your remark upon this particular point. Your surprise may have been expressed that the *true men* of the North should hesitate to vote for Douglas' bill when the South were willing to take it, and if I had paid attention to the whole conversation, I don't not such would have been the impression of my mind.

I have never sought a conversation with you upon the subject of the Nebraska bill; but every time I have heard you mention the subject you have uniformly expressed yourself warmly in favor of the principle of the bill, viz: the principle of "the right of the people of the Territories to regulate the question of slavery for themselves—a doctrine from which I dissented; and, as I knew we were not at all likely to agree, I sought no discussion of the question.

You have assured me always that you thought it best for the whole country, and insisted that patriotic men in both sections ought to take it. I thought the South must be the loser. I think so now. I understand you to place it upon the ground that the principle is right in itself, and it works for or against a particular section, no one has a right to complain; that you were for the rights of both sections, and willing to take any consequences that might follow the practical carrying out of those rights as you understand them. Very truly, yours,  
JERE CLEMENS.

GEN. FRANK PIERCE, President U. States.

In his first letter, Mr. Clemens spoke of the difference between himself and the President, relative to "the right of the people of the Territories to regulate the question of slavery for themselves"—evidently desiring to state that the President had declared himself in favor of the obnoxious doctrine of "squatter sovereignty." In his second letter, it will be perceived, he makes no disclaimer or explanation on this point—nor of the President's "decided opinion" that the bill is a proposition in favor of freedom, (meaning of course freedom) and that under it not another slave State would ever come into the Union—but he confuses his explanation, (his intention having been particularly called to that by the President,) to the surprise expressed by Gen. Pierce, that the North should oppose the bill and the South accept it. It stands avowed, then, that the President is an advocate of that political heresy, repudiated with one voice by all parties in the South, known as "squatter sovereignty." As if to place the matter beyond the possibility of doubt or equivocation, the President's organ at Washington proclaims that "the publication of Col. Clemens' two letters will render it impossible hereafter for any man honestly to misunderstand the position of President Pierce." Indeed we think so. It is lamentably plain, that the man chosen and honored for his reputed fidelity to Southern interests is the friend of a system that, if reduced to practice and submitted to, would undermine her institutions, rob her of her just rights, destroy her equality under the constitution, prostrate, degrade and ruin her.

By consent of all, this doctrine of squatter sovereignty has been held, in the South, more dangerous and insufferable, because more insidious, than the Wilcox Proviso. It has been open, positive and direct in its provisions and objects, and could be confronted and resisted at the threshold. When the misshapen monster was throttled there—there it was strangled and there buried; but the subtle and insinuating reptile that, under the false name of "popular sovereignty," diffuses its virulent breath into our system, is an enemy against which there will be no defence, if once it is given liberty. In all seriousness and solemnity, we call upon the friends of the administration in Virginia to give their heed to these avowals of Mr. CLEMENS. By the deliberate resolution, passed unanimously at their State Convention in '48 or '9, they stand pledged to resist the perilous doctrine of "squatter sovereignty." Will they now sit silently by and hear it proclaimed by their great official and party head? Will they allow the forged stamp of this interpretation to be put upon that bill by the President, in signing it, as it was by Gen. Cass in the Senate, in voting upon it? Will they turn their backs upon their own solemn and pledged declarations of faith, to sustain a President whose trustworthiness was more than doubtful, even before these fatal disclosures? —[Semi-weekly Virginian.]

## PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT.

"Progress" is the stirring watchword—  
Cheers us onward to the height;  
Canst thou pause and play the laggard,  
With its glories full in sight?  
Who shall tell the bond or barrier  
To "improvement" heaven-designed?  
Who shall dare to fix the limits,  
To the onward march of mind?

Be careful of whom you talk.—Two young ladies were once singing a duet in a concert room. A stranger who had heard better performances, turned to his neighbor, saying:—"Does not the lady in white sing wretchedly?" "Excuse me, sir," replied he: "I hardly feel at liberty to express my sentiments, being not impartial in the case; it is my sister."

"I beg your pardon, sir," answered the stranger in much confusion; "I meant the lady in blue."

"You are perfectly right then," replied the neighbor, "I have often told her so myself; it is my wife!"

The greatest pleasure of life is love; the greatest treasure contentment.